

TITLE 3. DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Department of Food and Agriculture amended Section 3417, subsection (b), of the regulations in Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations pertaining to Mexican Fruit Fly Interior Quarantine as an emergency action that was effective on December 12, 2002. The Department proposes to continue the regulation as amended and to complete the amendment process by submission of a Certificate of Compliance no later than April 11, 2003.

A public hearing concerning the proposed action will be held on Monday, March 10, 2003 at 10:00 a.m., at Castle Creek Inn, 2985 Circle R Way, Escondido, California 92026. These facilities are accessible to persons with mobility impairments.

A representative of the Department of Food and Agriculture will preside the hearing. Any interested person, or his or her duly authorized representative, may appear and be heard. Persons who speak are requested to register prior to the hearing. The prehearing registration will be conducted at the location of the hearing from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Those registered persons will be heard in the order of their registration. Any other person who wishes to speak at the hearing will be afforded such opportunity after the registered persons have been heard. The hearing will continue until there are no persons present to address the Department or until 4:30 p.m.

If the number of preregistered persons and other participants in attendance at the hearing warrants it, the presiding officer may limit the time for each presentation in order to allow everyone wishing to speak to the opportunity to be heard.

Any person, or his or her duly authorized representative, who does not wish to speak at the hearing may present written statements to the presiding officer at the hearing, or may submit written statements on or before March 10, 2003 to the agency officer named below.

Following the public hearing and the written comment period, the Department of Food and Agriculture may certify that there was compliance with provisions of Section 11346.1 of the Government Code within 120 days of the emergency regulation.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST//POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Existing law obligates the Department of Food and Agriculture to protect the agricultural industry of California and prevent the spread of injurious pests (Food and Agricultural Code Sections 401 and 403). Existing law provides the Secretary may establish, maintain, and enforce quarantine regulations, as he deems necessary, to circumscribe and exterminate or prevent the spread of pests (Food and Agricultural Code, Sections 5301, 5302 and 5322).

This amendment of Section 3417(b) establishes a quarantine area of approximately 117 square miles

surrounding the Valley Center area of San Diego County. The Monterey Park and South Pasadena areas of Los Angeles County, approximately 105 square miles, are also a quarantine area. The effect of the change is to provide authority for the State to regulate movement of hosts of Mexican fruit fly from, into, and within that area under quarantine to prevent artificial spread of the fly to noninfested areas to protect California's agricultural industry. There is no existing, comparable federal regulation or statute.

COST TO LOCAL AGENCIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Department of Food and Agriculture has determined that Section 3417(b) does not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts, except that an agricultural commissioner of a county under quarantine has a duty to enforce Section 3417. No reimbursement is required for Section 3417 under Section 17561 of the Government Code because the Agricultural Commissioner of San Diego County requested the change in the regulation.

The Department also has determined that the amended regulation will involve no additional costs or savings to any state agency, no reimbursable costs or savings under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code to local agencies or school districts, no nondiscretionary costs or savings to local agencies or school districts, and no costs or savings in federal funding to the State.

EFFECT ON HOUSING COSTS

The Department has made an initial determination that the proposed action will not affect housing costs.

EFFECT ON BUSINESSES

The Department has made an initial determination that the proposed action will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting some California businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. For some of those businesses located within the Valley Center area of San Diego County, there may be significant adverse economic impacts, including their ability to compete with businesses in other states.

COST IMPACT ON REPRESENTATIVE PRIVATE PERSON OR BUSINESS

The cost impact of the amended regulation on a representative private person or business is not expected to be significantly adverse. A representative person or business could incur costs of approximately \$1,902 per year in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

ASSESSMENT

The Department has made an assessment that the proposed amendment to the regulation would not (1) create or eliminate jobs within California, (2) create new business or eliminate existing businesses within

California, or (3) affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Department of Food and Agriculture must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Department or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Department would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

AUTHORITY

The Department proposes to amend Section 3417(b) pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 407, 5301, 5302 and 5322 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

REFERENCE

The Department proposes this action to implement, interpret and make specific Sections 5301, 5302 and 5322 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The amendment of this regulation may affect small businesses.

CONTACT

The agency officer to whom written comments and inquiries about the initial statement of reasons, proposed action, location of the rulemaking file, request for a public hearing, and final statement of reasons may be directed is: Stephen S. Brown, Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services, 1220 N Street, Room A-316, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 654-1017, FAX (916) 654-1018, E-mail: sbrown@cdfa.ca.gov. In his absence, you may contact Kris Peeples at (916) 654-1017. Questions regarding the substance of the proposed regulation should be directed to Stephen S. Brown.

INTERNET ACCESS

The Department has posted the information regarding this proposed regulatory action on its Internet website (www.cdfa.ca.gov/cdfa/pendingregs).

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The Department of Food and Agriculture has prepared an initial statement of reasons for the proposed action, has available all the information upon which its proposal is based, and has available the express terms of the proposed action. A copy of the initial statement of reasons and the proposed regulation in

underline and strikeout form may be obtained upon request. The location of the information on which the proposal is based may also be obtained upon request. In addition, the final

statement of reasons will be available upon request. Requests should be directed to the contact named herein.

If the regulation amended by the Department differs from, but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of amendment. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency officer (contact) named herein.

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Date

Undersecretary